

TIME CRITICAL DIAGNOSIS SYSTEM MARCH 2010 UPDATE

STATE SCHEDULES EMERGENCY MEDICINE SERVICES ASSESSMENT

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will facilitate a reassessment of Missouri's statewide emergency medical services (EMS) programs on June 21-24, 2010. NHTSA is assembling a team of individuals who have expertise in EMS development and implementation as well as leadership and expertise in efforts to improve EMS at the national level. Through an established process, the NHTSA team will 1) review briefing materials compiled by the Department of Health and Senior Services with input from the EMS community; 2) participate in a briefing session with EMS and State representatives on the range of system elements, including, but not limited to, ambulance services; practicing emergency, trauma, stroke and STEMI physicians; EMS system managers; and members of the State and EMS advisory boards and committees; 3) analyze the information, develop recommendations and draft a report; and 4) present a verbal and written final report.

NHTSA's Technical Assistance Program is a public/private cooperative effort among the NHTSA Office of EMS, the NHTSA Regional Office, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative, the State EMS Office and the public and private providers/administrators of the EMS community. The results of this review, coupled with the results of the Statewide Trauma System Review that was conducted by the American College of Surgeons in June 2009, will provide an evaluation of Missouri's EMS system based on nationally accepted standards and integration of new technology. This review has been made possible through funding from the Missouri Foundation for Health and will provide excellent insights and directions to guide next steps for continued quality improvement of Missouri's EMS system.



DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE UPDATED ON TCD SYSTEM

While health insurance coverage was a hotly debated topic on the national front, it is being reviewed within the State for TCD patients. The Departments of Insurance and Health and Senior Services staffs reviewed Missouri's laws and regulations relating to health insurance coverage. Division of Insurance staff believe that TCD conditions--trauma, stroke and STEMI--clearly fall within the "emergency medical conditions" definition. (§376.1350 (12) RSMo) The Department of Health and Senior Services will continue to work with the Department of Insurance and keep health carriers and managed care plans updated on the status of the TCD system and implications for coverage.

MISSOURI BENEFITS FROM CDC PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATICS FELLOW

The Department is evaluating existing databases and compiling a plan to expand the informatics infrastructure to support evaluation and quality improvement functions for the TCD system. To assist with this effort an application was submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for assignment of a fellow with expertise in public health informatics. Department staffs are excited to welcome its first fellow to help assess the current databases that collect core data and identify interoperability within and between state and other systems. Where linkages could be established, the Department is seeking advice on how to design the system to extract relevant and appropriate data elements to minimize new reporting requirements. Gaps are also being identified. Through these efforts a plan will be compiled to expand the existing databases into a comprehensive system to manage emergency medical care registries (trauma, stroke and STEMI) linked with other relevant databases in order to track and analyze TCD system performance and outcomes and support quality improvement and evaluation functions.

CDC offers their fellows for short-term technical assistance (4-6 weeks) assignments and encouraged the Department to submit subsequent applications for future phases of the project planning and implementation.

TUNE IN TO WEBINARS LIVE OR LATER

The March round of Webinars used the Department's meetings software to support discussions and avoid travel time. Recordings of the webinars are available on the Department's Website. Through this software, the Department will use meeting tools, such as online polling, on-line viewing and editing of documents, PowerPoint presentations and other options available to support meeting discussions.



DEPARTMENT WILL POST TCD WORK GROUP SCHEDULES

The Department is working on charters and schedules for the TCD Work Groups--public education, professional education and quality assurance. All three arms of the TCD system--trauma, stroke and STEMI--are being addressed. The public education information will be posted by the first of April and their next webinar will be held on April 14. The professional education schedule should be available in May. The databases supporting the performance improvement and quality assurance work group's task are being assessed. When this task is complete the quality assurance schedule will be completed. If you are interested in participating on one of work groups and have not already signed up, please complete a sign-up sheet available on the Department's TCD website--What's New.

Dates for your calendar:

- ✓ **Public Education Work Group-Webinar**
April 14, 2010, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Local -526-5622 and Toll free- 866-630-9348.

- ✓ **Trauma Task Force-Webinar**
April 21, 2010, 1:30 to 4:30
Local -526-5402 and Toll free-866-630-9346
Webinar connection:
http://stateofmo.na4.acrobat.com/tcd_trauma/

- ✓ **NHSTA Statewide EMS Reassessment, Jefferson City**
June 21-24, 2010

WHERE ARE THE STROKE AND STEMI CENTER DESIGNATION REGULATIONS?

Regulations receive thorough legal and administrative review prior to being filed with the Secretary of State's Office. The Department invested considerable time to assure that it had the input of a broad group of individuals within the TCD system and with the input phase completed, the regulations are now going through administrative and legal review. It is difficult to predict how long this step may take but it is estimated to take three to six months. The Department will notify those on the TCD list serve when the regulations are filed with the Secretary of States' Office and when the official public comment period will be.



WE MISS OUR COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND

Paula Adkison, RN, Trauma Program Coordinator had many friends and will be missed. Paula died March 6, 2010 and her memorial service held on March 11 celebrated her life with family, friends and colleagues in attendance. The service was a warm tribute to Paula who has been employed with the Department since 2005 and contributed significantly to the TCD system development.